

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

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AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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SUBJECT: UNION OF PALESTINIAN JURISTS HOLDS CONGRESS IN
TUNIS, JULY 9 - 11, 1977

1. UNION OF PALESTINIAN JURISTS HELD ITS "THIRD" CONGRESS
IN TUNIS JULY 9 THROUGH 11 AT PSD PARTY HEADQUARTERS. AS
WAS CASE WITH EARLIER MEETINGS OF PALESTINIAN LAWYERS AND
JOURNALISTS ORGANIZATIONS, GOT GAVE PARITICIPANTS WARM
RECEPTION, KIND WORDS AND FAVORABLE MEDIA COVERAGE.
MEETINGS WERE OPENED BY TUNISIAN MINISTER OF JUSTICE
SLAHEDDINE BALY ON JULY 9 AND NEWLY ELECTED EXECUTIVE
BOARD WAS RECEIVED BY PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA ON JULY 12.
CONGRESS LEADERSHIP WAS ALSO RECEIVED BY PSD PARTY DIRECTOR
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MOHAMED SAYAH AND JUSTICE MINISTER BALY, AND PARTICIPANTS
WERE GIVEN DINNER BY FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTY.
UNION ADDRESSED TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA
EXPRESSING APPRECIATION OF TUNISIAN HOSPITALITY, BUT
WE ARE NOT AWARE ANY PARITICIPANTS WERE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT.
PARTICIPANTS ALSO ADDRESSED TELEGRAM TO YASSER ARAFAT
EXPRESSING SATISFACTION WITH RESULTS OF MEETING, AND

VICTORY OF PALESTINIAN CAUSE UNDER ARAFAT'S COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP.

2. CONGRESS WAS MANAGED BY UNION'S SECRETARY GENERAL JAMAL OMAR SOURANI AND BY CONGRESS PRESIDENT ZAKARIA ABOU-SASSINA. UNION OF ARAB LAWYERS WAS REPRESENTED BY CHABIB MALKI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THAT ORGANIZATION, AND TWO ASSISTANT SECRETARIES GENERAL, LAMINE CHEBLI AND MADHER AZZOULI. ABOU EL ADIB REPRESENTED "THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION", ABOU DAOUD REPRESENTED THE PLO NATIONAL COUNCIL, AND KHALED EL HASSEN REPRESENTED PLO CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

3. IN PRESS STATEMENT MADE PRIOR TO CONFERENCE'S OPENING, SOURANI CALLED ON JURISTS THROUGHOUT WORLD TO GIVE GREATER SUPPORT TO PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT AND TO OPPOSE ZIONISM AS RACISM WHICH HE LIKENED TO THAT PRACTICED IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. HE SAID THAT PRINCIPAL ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING MEETING WERE JURIDICAL ASPECT OF PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, POLITICAL SITUATION IN PALESTINE AND IN ARAB WORLD. AND REACTIVATION OF UNION'S GENERAL SECRETARIAT. AFTER OPENING CEREMONIES AND SPEECHES ON JULY 9, CONGRESS DIVIDED INTO FOUR WORKING GROUPS. CLOSING SESSION ON JULY 11 APPROVED FINAL COMMUNIQUE (AS YET NOT MADE PUBLIC) AND APPROVED WORKING GROUPS' REPORTS TO FULL CONGRESS. ACCORDING TO PRESS, MAIN POINTS IN THESE UNCLASSIFIED

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REPORTS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

A. POLITICAL COMMITTEE:

CITED IMPOSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING PEACE UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES BECAUSE OF ISRAEL'S OBSTINATE COLONIAL POLICY AND REAFFIRMED NEED TO CONTINUE ARMED STRUGGLE AGAINST ZIONISTS; DREW ATTENTION TO DANGERS ZIONISM PRESENT NOT ONLY TO PALESTINIAN PEOPLE BUT TO ENTIRE WORLD AND EXPOSED ISRAELI PLANS TO DIVIDE ARAB WORLD AND PREPARATION FOR NEW EXPANSIONIST WAR; REAFFIRMED THAT PALESTINIAN PEOPLE WILL NEVER ACCEPT A LAND OTHER THAN THEIR OWN; CALLED FOR ARAB SOLIDARITY IN CONTINUING REVOLUTION BY MOBILIZING ALL ARAB MILITARY, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL STRENGTH; STATED THAT PROBLEM OF LEBANON CAN BE RESOLVED ONLY THROUGH COOPERATION OF PROGRESSIVE LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN NATIONALIST FORCES.

B. OCCUPIED TERRITORIES COMMITTEE:

DREW ATTENTION TO PRISONERS BEING HELD IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND RECOMMENDED ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL PALESTINIAN-ARAB COMMISSION TO DEFEND THESE DETAINEES, TO DENOUNCE ISRAEL'S DISCRIMINATORY POLICIES, AND TO MONITOR

ISRAELI DAWNS AND RECOLUTIONS TO ENSURE THEY CONFORM TO
INTERNATIONAL LAW.

C. JURIDICAL COMMITTEE:

EXAMINED AMENDMENT TO UNION'S STATUTE AND THE DRAFTING
OF A COMMON MOTION BY THE UNION'S 18 SECTIONS.

D. FINANCIAL COMMITTEE:

STUDIED UNION'S FINANCIAL NEEDS AND SUGGESTED REQUESTING
FINANCIAL AID FROM OTHER ARAB JURIDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

4. IN ADDITION, FINAL JULY 11 SESSION ALSO ELECTED NEW
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL OF 18 MEMBERS, ONE FROM EACH
SECTION OF UNION. MEDIA DID NOT GIVE NAMES.

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5. SEMI-INDEPENDENT ARABIC DAILY AS-SABAH PRINTED ON
JULY 12 BRIEF INTERVIEW WITH CHABIB MALKI, SECRETARY
GENERAL OF ARAB JURIST UNION, WHO ALSO PARTICIPATED IN
CONGRESS. HIS MAJOR FOCUS WAS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND
NEED TO ENSURE ECONOMIC AS WELL AS POLITICAL RIGHTS
OF ALL ARABS. HE SAID THAT A CONFERENCE ON THE
DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARAB WORLD WOULD BE HELD
IN EARLY 1978. MALKI WAS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT
NEXT ARAB JURISTS UNION CONGRESS WOULD BE HELD IN
RABAT EARLY NEXT YEAR.

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